Minister
Ministre

Ministry
of
Education

Ministère
de
l'Éducation

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May 27, 1991

Mr. Chris Brown
Branch President - Ottawa
The Allergy and Environmental Health Association
6267 Castille Court
Orleans, Ontario
K1C 1X4

Dear Mr. Brown

Subsequent to my letter of March 12, 1991, regarding this matter, it has been brought to my attention that you have requested further clarification of the Ministry of Education position regarding the status of environmental sensitivity within the exceptionality groupings included in the Ministry of Education Special Education Handbook, 1984.

The exceptionality groupings include descriptors which may be used to assist in the identification of pupil needs; they are not intended to be a complete list of medical illnesses. Although environmental sensitivity may not be one of the examples of causal factors listed in the descriptors, the ministry agrees that environmental sensitivity should be considered as a possible contributing factor in a learning disability or behavioural exceptionality.

Where environmental sensitivities are thought to be the cause of learning disabilities or behavioural difficulties, the identification of an exceptional pupil should include a review of the health needs as presented by both the parents and the medical practitioner. The identification, placement and review committee should consider the results of the health assessment in order to make its recommendations about the identification of the needs of the pupil.

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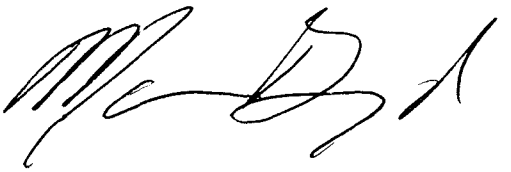
I trust that this additional information is satisfactory. If you have any further questions or concerns, please continue to communicate with the officials in the Eastern Ontario Regional office, who will be able to assist you.

Yours sincerely,



Marion Boyd
Minister